

## OVERVIEW OF CONTRACTING OPTIONS

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## Selecting the Right Contract Type

- Objective
  - Negotiate a contract type and price that results in reasonable contractor risk and provides incentive for efficient and economical performance

"The optimum balance between risk and reward"



## Selecting a Contract Type

- What are your acquisition's objectives?
  - New program?
  - Existing program? (Historical performance)
- How much risk do you want to incur?
- How much risk does the overall program have?
- What is the market for the requirement?





- Overall mission objectives
- Type and complexity of requirements
- Schedule urgency
- Period of performance
- Inherent risks of performance
- Price competition

- Adequacy of accounting systems
- Past performance
- Adequacy of price/cost analysis
- Contractor's technical capability and financial responsibility



### Contract Types Continuum

#### Government

Contractor

High Risk

**CPFF/LOE** – preliminary studies, R&D

**Time & Materials** – can't predict extent or duration

**FFP/LOE** – specific research or investigation

**CPFF** – preliminary study

**CPAF** – hard to objectively evaluate

**CPIF** – prototyping, initial production

**Cost and Cost Sharing** – commercial opportunities

**FPIF** – initial production

**FFP with EPA** – cost variations expected

**FFP** – commercial items, low performance risk, operations, follow-on services

Low Risk

Low Risk

High Risk

# Fixed Price vs. Cost Reimbursement Characteristics

### **Fixed Price**

- Government pays fixed price based on deliverables or contract financing.
- Contractor assumes the majority of the risk.
- Maximizes incentive for contractor to control costs.
- Minimum Govt. Surveillance
- Technical maturity (firm requirements)
- Must have reasonable basis for pricing.

### **Cost Reimbursement**

- Government pays allowable cost based upon costs incurred.
- Government assumes the majority of the risk.
- Little incentive for contractor to control costs.
- Maximum Govt. Surveillance
- Scope not well-defined

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

# Firm Fixed Price Contract Type Considerations for Commercial Buys

- Determine best fit to Program goals, scope of work, and attributes by assessing:
  - Length of performance period
  - Statement of Objectives and flexibility for offerors to propose content within their risk posture
  - Contractor level of product maturity
  - Stability of Government requirements
  - Open communications with industry to ensure understanding of NASA requirements
  - Adequate incentives to promote satisfactory performance

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